

REMARKS

The claims have now been restricted to the handling of the spillage of mercury with a high surface area deformable substrate with a gold coating.

The art has directed much attention to getting mercury out of specific places but very little toward cleaning up spills.

Applicants' view of the art of record is as follows.

In Seidenberger 4,076,553 cleaning up spills is discussed where a metal wool with a zinc coating is used and gold is mentioned as an alternative. The concept of wiping up mercury with a deformable substrate is not advanced.

There have been efforts in the art toward removing mercury vapor from the air by blowing the air through a mat of fibers that are coated with a metal (gold is mentioned) wettable by mercury in Williston 3,232,033, and from removing mercury in a gas adsorption system where gold is in the reactions in Yan 5,322,628 and trapping the mercury vapors in a noble metal filter (gold mentioned) in Gant 3,778,162. There is also an activated powder that can be used in collecting mercury as described in Hasenpusch DE3729030

There has also been some effort directed to the removal of excess solder using a high surface area wick like substrate such as braided wire (Jackson 3,715,797) and (Spirig 4,164,606), and folded ribbons Kent et al 5,305,941)

The point being urged in considering patentability of the claims, is that there has not been the use of a thin layer of gold on a deformable high surface area substrate for getting into and capturing

all of the mercury in the difficult areas that a mercury spillage may present. The claims have now been restricted to the handling of the spillage of mercury with a high surface area deformable substrate with a gold coating.

In view of the above, it is urged that one skilled in the art would not find a solution to the cleaning up of spills problem in the art but that applicants' invention as specified in the new claims should place the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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